

Firearms advisory for nonresident aliens

New federal regulations are now in effect for temporarily importing firearms and ammunition into the United States.

1. Non-resident aliens (*someone who is neither a citizen nor a permanent resident of the United States*) must provide U.S. Customs with a pre-approved U.S. import permit and evidence that they fall into an exemption category (e.g., by providing a valid Alaska hunting license/permit) before they will be allowed to import firearms or ammunition.
2. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) issues the required import permit. This permit can be obtained by completing a form (Form 6 Part 1, Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War), which is available from the ATF or on the ATF Web site. It can take 6 to 12 weeks to process the application so the permit should be applied for well in advance.
3. The application form for the import permit must be accompanied by a copy of an Alaska (or other U.S.) hunting license.

Contact Information:
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch
Telephone: (202) 927-8320
Web site: www.atf.treas.gov/

Canadian firearms restrictions

New Canadian laws significantly restrict transportation of firearms through Canada

Canadian transport policy for firearms requires prior planning. To transport a regular rifle and/or shotgun you must pay a \$50 fee (Canadian) and fill out a firearms declaration form. You may now receive an "Authorization to Transport" (ATT) permit to transport a handgun through Canada. This permit must be authorized BEFORE you arrive at the border. If not, your handgun may be confiscated. The handgun cannot have a barrel length shorter than 4 1/4 inches (105 mm), cannot fire a .25 or .32 caliber bullet and may need to be in a locked case. An ATT permit is free, however you will still have to register and pay the \$50 fee. For more information or to order a copy of the Firearms Act, its regulations, application forms and other Canadian Firearms Centre publications, contact them at:

1-800-731-4000 (Ext. 9026)
or www.cfc.gc.ca
e-mail: canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca

Mel Cheek of Anchorage took his first caribou about 80 miles south of Bethel. Mel and his hunting partner were both successful on this hunt, although weather delayed their return to Bethel by several freezing, windy days.



Photo by Dana McMillan.

11 year-old Kelsey Brush of Soldotna waits with her father, Greg Brush, for pick-up on a Kodiak Island beach after her first harvest, a fork-horn Sitka Blacktail deer.